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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Differences in Uniform of the Tank Troops and the Military Air Forces

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1. The Order of the Minister of Armed Forces of the USSR No 037, dated 15 Feb 49, dealing with the introduction of new uniforms for officer personnel of the Tank Troops and the Air Force of the Armed Forces, is divided into two sections: one of the sections describes the uniforms, the insignia, and the period of wear of different uniforms for the VVS, and the other for the Tank Troops.
2. The following differences between the uniforms of the Tank Troops and the Air Forces exist:
  - (a) The color of the uniform is the same in both cases;
  - (b) The piping on epaulets, collar tabs, headgear, and clothing will differ; in the VVS, the piping will be light blue and black, and in the Tank Troops, it will be red and black;
  - (c) The uniform will be tailored in the same manner for both organizations;
  - (d) There are no differences in the cut of the daily and parade uniforms between the two organizations, although there is a difference in the work uniform. The Air Forces have an airfield uniform which consists of the blouse from the daily uniform, breeches (worn inside boots), boots, and a garrison cap. In addition, a belt and shoulder strap is worn above the blouse. Furthermore, there is a flight uniform which consists of a leather jacket (made out of kid leather), breeches, boots, a garrison cap and a crash helmet. Technical personnel are issued fatigues of a light material during the summer, and fur jacket and fur breeches during the winter.

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1. Tank Troops work uniform consists of: a pull-over tunic, breeches, boots, and flight caps (overseas caps). In addition, they have light fatigues for the summer and heavy fatigues for the winter. Furthermore, all members of the tank crews are issued special helmets. The tunic mentioned above has the old-style cut.
3. The daily uniform, consisting of a jacket and loose breeches, can be combined with the airfield uniform when officer personnel are working on the airfield, during military training, war games, and tactical marches (vykhod v polye). During the above-mentioned times, officer personnel have to wear the jacket from the daily uniform with breeches inside their boots, as well as a belt and shoulder strap above the jacket. The above combination is the only one, no other combining of uniforms is permitted. This uniform is the same for both the winter and summer periods.
  4. Order No 037 of the Minister of Armed Forces states that the shirt to be worn with all uniforms is khaki and the tie is black. However, I have heard unofficial rumors (from officers arriving from the USSR as replacements) to the effect that, in 1950, a change (or an addition) was to take place in this order, in accordance with which the jackets and breeches of the parade uniform were to be of a dark blue color, the shirt was to be white, the tie black, and all other clothing was to remain unchanged. The white shirt was to be worn only with the parade uniform and the khaki shirt with all other uniforms. The tie is identical for all uniforms.
  5. Officer personnel of the VVS have two types of headgear: a cap with earflaps for winter conditions, and a garrison cap for summer conditions. In warm regions of the country, the permanent headgear is the garrison cap. According to Order No 037 of the Minister of Armed Forces, officer personnel are not to wear flap caps (overseas caps) during peace time.
  6. The headgear for sergeant and private personnel consists of a flight cap for summer conditions, and a cap with earflaps for winter conditions.
  7. The headgear for student personnel in air institutes consists of a cap with earflaps (cut in an officer style) for winter conditions, a flight cap for summer conditions, and an officer-style garrison cap for parades.
  8. The earflap cap for officer personnel is sewn out of a good quality fur and dark grey woolen material. The sergeants and privates' earflap cap is made out of artificial fur and dark grey cotton material. The earflap cap used by students in air institutes is made of the same materials as those of the officer personnel.
  9. The officers' garrison hat is made of cloth or a khaki colored woolen material. However, if the parade uniform is changed to a dark blue color, the parade garrison hat will have to be made out of a dark blue woolen material.
  10. Students in air institutes have flight caps made of woolen material and officer-style, khaki colored garrison hats, while sergeants and privates have flight caps made of a khaki colored cotton cloth.
  11. In accordance with order No 037 of the Minister of Armed Forces, pilot, shтурman (bombardier-navigator) and technical officer personnel of the VVS who have undergone training in these specialties and who presently occupy corresponding flight or technical positions, are permitted to wear breast emblems. 25X1
  12. In accordance with Order No 037 all officers have undergone flight training wear gold colored wings with crossed daggers and a red star; all officers who have undergone shтурman training wear gold colored wings with a bomb and red star; and officers with technical training wear silver wings with a crossed hammer and wrench and a red star. Officers having both flight and technical training, regardless of which was taken first, must wear flight breast emblems. 25X1
  13. In 1950, the Commander in Chief of the Air Force of the Armed Forces issued Order No 0015 "dealing with the introduction of a system of classification of pilot and navigator personnel in the VVS." In accordance with this order, additional new breast emblems showing the classification of VVS pilot and shтурman personnel were introduced. The following categories were indicated and this order: 25X1

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- (a) Pilot, 1st Class
- (b) Pilot, 2nd Class
- (c) Pilot, 3rd Class
- (d) Shturman, 1st Class
- (e) Shturman, 2nd Class
- (f) Shturman, 4th Class

On the basis of these classes, a number indicating a given class was placed on the breast wings. In order to be placed in a class, a pilot or navigator had to have a level of flight training which corresponded to the class.

14. Upon graduating from an air institute, pilots and navigators are not assigned any category (or class) in their specialty. Only after such an individual has arrived in his unit and spent some time there, can he be placed in the third category (if the level of his flight or navigation training meets the requirements of this category). Upon graduating from the above air institutes, officers have the right to wear gold colored wings corresponding to their flight specialty. Officers graduating from air technical institutes receive silver breast wings with a crossed hammer and wrench and a red star. The silver wings of technical officer personnel do not have any numbers.
15. If any silver wings with crossed daggers and a red star, or with a bomb (with its stabilizer facing down) and a red star have appeared, this may designate pilot and navigator personnel who have retired for various reasons, or young pilot personnel who do not yet have a class (i.e., those who have just completed an institute). This, in turn, would signify that an addition has been made to Order No 037 or No 0015. 25X1
16. It is necessary to remember that both the parade and daily overcoats are of the same color although the quality of the material is different. The daily overcoats are dark grey and made out of "KM" type cloth (sukmo markii "km"); the parade overcoat is made of a dark grey heavy woolen cloth. The daily overcoat may be worn with the daily, airfield, and flight uniform, whereas, the parade overcoat can be worn only with the parade uniform.
17. Officers having flight or navigation training must wear flight cap badges (letnyi krab) on garrison hats, earflap caps, and fur caps (papakhi). Officers having technical training and officers having no flight or navigation training do not have the right to wear flight cap badges on their garrison hats, earflap caps, or fur caps. 25X1

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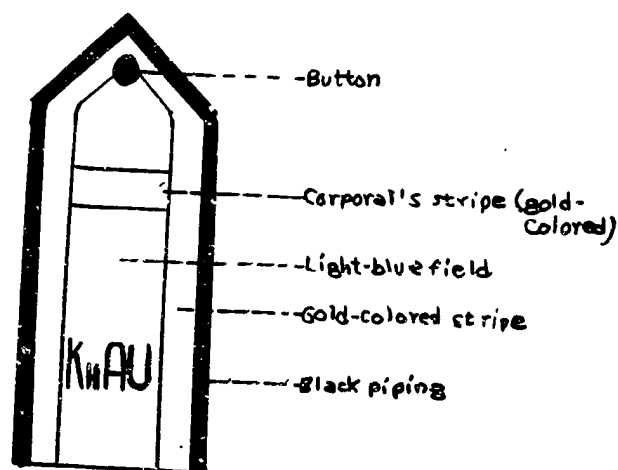
ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of the epaulet of a student in the Kharkov Air Institute for Pilots (KhAI). This particular student is in the military grade of Corporal.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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SKETCH OF EPAULET OF STUDENT IN KHARKOV AIR INSTITUTE FOR PILOTS (KHAU)

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